

Florence Township Council Regular & Executive Session 8/8/18

Florence, New Jersey
August 8, 2018

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Ostrander at 8:00 PM. Council President Ostrander led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 4, 2018. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 10, 2018.

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston, Paul Ostrander

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Township Administrator, Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

MINUTES

Woolston made a MOTION, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the following minutes. Voice vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

- Regular Meeting of July 11, 2018
- Closed Session of August 1, 2018

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to receive and file the Township Clerk's Monthly Report for July 2018, the Police Chief's Monthly Report for June 2018, and the Court Administrator's Monthly Report for July 2018. Voice vote – all ayes.

It was on the MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Judith King dated August 7, 2018 requesting permission for the Florence Historical Society to hold an Open House at the Third Street Firehouse on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

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It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the request.

On the Question:

Councilman Sandusky requested that Public Works clean up around the property before the event. Sometimes there are weeds and debris that accumulates and he wanted to make sure it looks nice for the event. Administrator Brook said that would not be a problem. Councilman Sandusky said that is also the weekend of the Annual Car Show so there will be a lot of people in town.

Voice vote – all ayes.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked about a bond ordinance that was on the agenda this evening. It was regarding a property at Rt. 130 and Florence-Columbus Road. He asked what property it was. Administrator Brook said there have been several studies that have been taking place along the entire Route 130 corridor in the northern half of the county. The largest study is going to be released in September or October. It will present the best ways to go forward with implementing traffic improvements. One of the main intersections that's been targeted is Route 130 and Florence-Columbus Road. About two years ago, Florence Township began, with Mayor and Council's consent, to research traffic improvements. It was understood that it would take a long time to implement traffic improvements along the state highway and on county roads of this magnitude. They directed the administration to consult the Township Engineer, Maser Associates, and ask them to begin working on preliminary drawings on how to improve two or three major intersections. The first was Florence-Columbus Road and Route 130. Maser presented some alternative plans. The township then began speaking informally with the Department of Transportation and the Burlington County Engineers Office. All were in agreement that this intersection was the primary intersection in need of improvement in this area. The jughandle is too narrow. There isn't enough room to queue. There is not adequate turning movements to go left from Florence-Columbus Road onto Route 130. There is also not enough for turning right. When turning off Route 130 North to make a right onto Florence-Columbus Road the trucks and larger vehicles make it very prohibitive. That is a safety issue. Maser's design takes into account a lot of those concerns. He anticipates when the township adopts the bond ordinance there will be a draft to review. To undertake these improvements, the cost could be from nine to ten million dollars. The acquisitions of the properties will possibly be in the range of three to four million dollars. One way Florence could get the state to commit to doing the project was to show it was a long term need for the residents of the community. Not only does it impact the residents who live here, but it is made worse by all the building and development that is going on in other municipalities. This has become a hub. The design calls for Florence-Columbus Road to be widened significantly in the area where the intersection is to allow for two lanes to turn left onto Route 130 South. Travelling down Florence-Columbus Road, instead of coming to the intersection

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of Route 130 to turn right, there will be what is called a “dog leg.” A vehicle will be able to turn off Florence-Columbus Road and go directly to Route 130 without having to deal with a traffic light. That will eliminate anything turning right. In addition, the jughandle will be made significantly larger and it will be pulled back from the intersection to allow much more room for stacking. Maser is also looking at Route 130 North where there is a right-hand turn onto Florence-Columbus Road. The township will be looking to acquire additional right-of-way space to create a larger deceleration lane for stacking. It will be acquiring the property there that is currently a car repair shop. In addition, there may be other improvements on the Rite Aid side of Route 130, but no one is sure yet. The township knows the major improvements have to occur on the other side. With the municipality taking the lead and working with the county, it will be able to acquire the property necessary to make this happen in an expedited manner. The county is working with the township helping to fund the project ahead of time. The state has committed the money to do the work, the county is prepared to “front the money” so to speak, and get reimbursed. The township’s requirement is to acquire the properties and any right-of-ways, and move expeditiously to do that. Florence Township will also be receiving some reimbursement, although how much is not known, for some of the money it is putting into this project. If the township and the county did not step up to the state and push with an expedited time table, it probably would not have happened. Right now the state has prepared its surveying work. It was completed within the past month or two. They are now preparing concept plans. It is on what is called a “fast track.” The goal is that within four years the entire project will be done.

Mr. Kamienski asked if the property being acquired is the car repair place. Administrator Brook said he anticipates there is going to be acquisition of part of the old Brandow property for the deceleration lane. Turning right onto Florence-Columbus Road, the car repair property will need to be acquired and there is a large property that goes behind the cemetery that has frontage on Florence-Columbus Road and on Route 130 that will need to be acquired in order to make this work. He offered to review the plan with Mr. Kamienski in more detail. Mayor Wilkie noted that the final plan is not done yet, this is more of schematic. Administrator Brook agreed. He said the concept plan is done. Now the details need to be decided, such as sidewalks or a bike path, deceleration lanes, and turn lanes. The goal is to have it completely constructed in four years. Mayor Wilkie said the County Freeholders announced this program about a month ago. It called for two years for design and eighteen months for construction. Administrator Brook said he thinks it can be done. One of the big things that both the township and the county had to confront was that to do nothing would leave the status quo in place and the road would continue to be overburdened.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said he would like to pass on his thanks to Police Chief Brian Boldizar for coming out and listening to his concerns about speeding on his street. He put the speed trailer on the street and prepared a report. He was a gentleman. He didn’t rush Mr. Csik, he took his time and if there are any questions he is always willing to go over the information again. If everyone was like him everything would be good. Mayor and Council thanked him.

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-185

**Approve Change Order No. 1 and Partial Payment No.1 for
Cedar Lane Road Improvements
To: Richard T. Barrett Paving Co., Inc.
400 Prospect Street, Trenton, NJ 08618-2630**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-187

**A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property
Owned by the Township of Florence**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-188

**A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property
Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-189

**A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property
Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-190

**A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property
Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-191

**Resolution of the Township of Florence, in the County of
Burlington, New Jersey Making an Emergency Appropriation for
Purpose of Providing Soft Costs Related to
Township Road Improvements**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-192

**Resolution of the Township of Florence, in the County of
Burlington, New Jersey Authorizing Application to the
Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-11**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-193

**Authorizing the Issuance of a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-194

**Approve Partial Payment No.2 for Contract for
1042 Potts Mill Road Community Support Building Improvements
To: Levy Construction Company, Inc.**

134 Cuthbert Blvd., Audubon, NJ 08106

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-195
Authorization to Secure Letter of Credit for
Camera Installation on Verizon Utility Poles**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-196
Resolution Amending the Capital Budget**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-197
Award Contract for
Potts Mill Road Improvements
To: Richard T. Barrett Construction
400 Prospect Street, Trenton, NJ 08612**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-198
Authorize the Township Engineer to Prepare Plans,
Specifications and Solicit Bids for Burlington County
Municipal Parks Development Program Grant**

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution Nos. 2018-185 through 2018-198.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-21
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR
THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PARCELS AND INTERESTS IN
REAL PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF THE INTERSECTION FLORENCE-
COLUMBUS ROAD AND ROUTE 130, APPROPRIATING \$3,500,000 IN
GENERAL
IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO
FINANCE THE SAME
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 9/19/18)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2018-21 and set the public hearing and adoption for September 19, 2018.

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Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-22 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE (1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 9/5/18)

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2018-22 and set the public hearing and adoption for September 5, 2018.

Upon roll call Council voted as followsL

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Councilman Woolston said field hockey and football have started practicing and begun their seasons for this year. The tennis clinic was very successful and took off very well. There are a few weeks left and there is discussion about trying to have a fall session.

He said Marty Eckert did a tremendous job organizing the summer camp. He had numerous conversations and they were all very pleased with how great it was this year. He said he can't say enough good. He wanted to thank Mr. Eckert for all of his work and effort and everything that he did, along with the volunteer off-duty police officers who helped and resident volunteers. He wanted to thank them all for their hard work.

Council President Ostrander said on September 22, 2018, there is a big event planned for the Roebling Museum. The original Brooklyn Bridge movie. Ken Burns, who developed it, and is a legend in his field, has committed to being there for the movie presentation. It should be a great event and hopefully the weather will cooperate. The screening would be held outdoors. He is looking forward to it because he is fascinated by the Roebling history. Building the Brooklyn Bridge was just one facet of that. Councilman Sandusky asked if there was a backup plan. Councilman Lovenduski said they are looking into possibly having a rain date. Councilman Sandusky asked if it could be moved to the Community Center on the original date. Councilman Lovenduski said the Community Center is already taken that night.

Councilman Woolston said one of the Recreation Committee members inquired about holding bingo at the Community Center. The local churches have stopped having bingo and the member

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said there are a lot of people who would like to see bingo return. She was willing to put forth her time and efforts to kick it off and make it a success. Councilman Sandusky said the only problem he sees is if there is anything with money or prizes the state requires a Bingo License. Clerk Erlston said it would have to be held by an organization that has an ID/registration number from the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission. Holy Assumption had a registration number which allowed them to get the bingo licenses. It is a two-step process, there needs to be a registration number first and then a license to hold the bingo games. It is much like a Raffle License. Bingo is very specific. Councilman Woolston said it was a suggestion, and he would like to look into it and find out what needs to be done.

Administration **Township Clerk**

Clerk Erlston said he had two items to discuss this evening. The first is that at the September 5th meeting, County Clerk Timothy Tyler would like to attend to present the Killed in Action Flag. She explained that the state passed new legislation stating that every municipality must fly the KIA Flag. The highest on the pole is the American Flag, followed by the POW Flag and then the KIA Flag. Clerk Tyler will present the flag to Mayor and Council. It only has to be flown at the Municipal Building, it does not have to be on every flag pole in the municipality.

The second item was regarding a call she received earlier in the day from Nook's Pourhouse. There is an Eagles game on Sunday, October 28th versus the Jaguars. The game starts at 9:30 a.m. and is being played in England. They would like to open at 9:00 a.m. on that day. The local ordinance says a consumption licensed establishment cannot open until noon on Sundays. There are exceptions, such as on New Year's Eve or occasions like that, when Council can let an establishment be open two extra hours. That would allow them to open at 10:00 a.m. if Council approved that. To open at 9:00 a.m. the ordinance may need to be amended to allow that to happen. Councilman Sandusky said the voters voted to allow Sunday hours. Clerk Erlston said there had been an amendment to the ordinance that allowed Council to allow establishments to be open two extra hours. It did include sporting events. Council President Ostrander said without too much action required they could be approved to open at 10:00 a.m. Administrator Brook said when he first heard this, his first thought was that it was a Sunday morning and the governing body has always been a little hesitant of Sunday events. We will look at the ordinance and consult with Solicitor Grant. If they need an immediate answer, it could be difficult. Possibly, there could be an answer for the first meeting in September. He doesn't know enough about it right now and would need to read the ordinance. There will be various opinions about opening up on a Sunday morning for a football game. Councilman Sandusky said he thinks the other licensed establishments, both consumption and distribution, would also want to open early. It opens a Pandora's Box.

Clerk Erlston said even though there is an ordinance, Council is not required to offer it. It is choice and it would be done by resolution. She could tell Nook's tomorrow that Council did not want to extend Sunday hours, or if Council wants to entertain the possibility she can tell them that Council is reviewing the request. Council President Ostrander suggested looking into it and let the Administrator research it. Solicitor Grant said there are a few different issues that would need to

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be researched. Administrator Brook suggested the township ask Nook's to allow for some time to research it and have further discussions with more information available. It is tough to make decisions for Sunday morning sales this quickly. All were in agreement to revisit the issue at the September meeting.

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said he wanted to thank Administrator Brook and the staff for their support of the send a child to camp. Not only did the township pay for the child to attend the camp. Administrator Brook and other members of the staff extended themselves and at times transported the child to and from camp. He appreciated that level of commitment. It is above and beyond.

In the last couple of weeks, the community has lost some people who were long time contributors in many ways. Joe Varga, a WWII Vet, came to this country in the late 30's with his mother. His father was already working at the Roebling Steel Mill. Joe then went into the armed forces and came back to Roebling after the war. He started a local electrical business. He operated it for many years. He was not just a local electrician, he took pride in his property. He decorated for every holiday. He went beyond that and participated in every Patriotic Celebration parade. His family and friends always joined him. He was one of the main people who made possible the Charles Roebling statue on the circle in Roebling. We mourn his loss, the community lost someone who greatly contributed to the community. He raised his family here and continued to support the township his entire life. He was very active in his church.

Ron Luyber, who was raised in the community, was a high school coach, teacher, athletic director and very much a part of the community, passed away recently also. Another teacher, Lou Guadagnino, who started teaching in the sixties and retired in the early nineties, passed away. Everyone knew him as coach and he led the basketball team to many titles. He was a well-respected coach and went on to be an assistant coach at Princeton University. He went to a number of other schools to coach. In the early eighties he also coached the Florence's Girls Basketball Team. In eighty-five he took over the softball program, which had been having difficulties. He led them to the state title in 1987. He made a big change to the program and it became very competitive. He raised his family here and was very much a part of a community. Both educators touched the lives of many students of the Florence Township School District. They provided guidance and leadership to the young people of the community. These are great losses to the community and their families are in everyone's thoughts.

Mayor Wilkie noted for public information, Council will not be meeting again until September.

Municipal Administrator

Administrator Brook said the Water & Sewer Department performed the switch-over at the plant. There were a few issues and a little bit of a disruption. This is major work occurring at the plant that will be very beneficial for the entire community for many years to come. Now that Phase I is completed the demolition will begin in two to four weeks of the items that are no longer needed. These include the old aerator, the old clear well, and other items. The Water & Sewer Engineer and Director of Water & Sewer will begin working on the specifications for the Florence-

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Columbus Road Water Tower. If all goes well, it will be taken out of service in February or early March of next year. Then the township will begin planning Phase II of the Water Plant improvements. Hopefully, they will be completed by early 2020. That would leave the plant in excellent shape going forward.

He wanted to comment on what Councilman Woolston said about the summer camp. It was an incredible summer camp this year and he thinks it was made even more special because of the significant interaction of the Police Officers with the children. They went on all of the trips with the kids and participated in the activities that were done on-site. That is not seen very often and it was obvious to see what an impression it made on the children and on the officers. He wanted to thank the Police Department and Mr. Eckert for all they did. It is an incredible amount of work to have fifty to sixty kids for two weeks. It is exhausting. The kids had a great time.

He mentioned earlier to Council President Ostrander that since the township is looking to begin finalizing the plans for Florence-Columbus Road and Route 130, one aspect is that township has to solicit quotations or proposals to begin the appraisal process for the properties that are in the area. Any contract for an appraisal has to be awarded by the governing body for a project of this size. He asked if Council would be willing to give authorization by a motion so the administration can begin soliciting quotations for the properties that would be involved for making these roadway improvements.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to approve the administration to request proposals for appraisal of the properties. All ayes.

Administrator Brook said he needed to thank Councilman Woolston. He has been working with the Director of Water & Sewer and some of the Water & Sewer employees on the possibility of replacing the backhoe. They have met within the past two weeks and there is a product that looks like would work well for the township. There is a national co-op that the township has participated in previously. The township will go on-line and file the application. He asked if there could be a motion to submit the application to become a member of the co-op. The Fire Department is already a member, and more and more municipalities are joining. It is a good way to get a fairly good price for a product that is needed. He would like to be able to move the project forward.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to approve applying to join the co-op. All ayes.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he provided a spreadsheet that was highlighted yellow. It shows comparisons what is currently contracted with the paving contractor, MECO, and some streets he added as a possible alternative for paving. It is because Public Service has come forward with an offer based on what PSE&G and the township worked on last year. They would pave the same streets that Mecos is about to do. Public Service enjoyed working with the Township last year. Both sides were cooperative. PSE&G knows that they owe the township

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some paving. They decided they would do the entire street instead of just the trench lines. Obviously the roads don't need to be paved twice. The first option is to provide an alternate list to Public Service and allow the township contractor to continue with the project. He provided the list. He believes the quantities of square yards comes close to what Public Service was obligated to do, and the township would get a lot of big streets done. He wanted to see if Council was in agreement with the provided list of streets. It is close enough to the current work area so that it begins to fill in the "donut hole" areas. If PSE&G for some reason does not agree, the township would have to pull the contractor off the proposed streets and move him to the alternate list. He hopes that does not have to happen.

Councilman Woolston said he approves of the list of streets. He asked if Olive Street was going to be done. Assistant Administrator Sahol said it was. He would like to see some raised crosswalks at the development to slow people down and for the safety of pedestrians. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there are a few locations where that would be a good idea. The school kids walk in that area. He agreed to incorporate them. If Council was in agreement he will work with the Township Engineer to select areas where the raised walks should be placed on that straight-away.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he provided Council with the design plans for the resolution that was approved this evening. This is something that was approved at a prior meeting. These are the specs for the Parks Grant that was awarded. The biggest three will be bid. That will be the repaving of the paths at Wilkie Park, the angled parking adjacent to the park at Riverside Avenue and the extension of parking at Marter Park. These are the only components that need to be designed and bid; the rest is quote work.

The Potts Mill Road contract that was awarded this evening came in about ten thousand dollars less than the grant amount. The township will maximize the amount of work that can be done. The Engineer is already beginning the design of the second phase application of Potts Mill Road. With that he will be putting together the necessary applications and requests to the DEP for a culvert extension so the work can go past the culvert. There will also be pedestrian sidewalks. It is probably a six-month process, to get through the DEP. He wanted to bring it to Council's attention. It is another good project that will be starting in mid-September.

The curb on Hornberger Avenue is well underway. They will be starting to develop the center line and island effect. Earle is doing a phenomenal job with the water installation on Front Street. They are moving along very nicely. The contractor is very clean and safety conscious. The Road Program is progressing nicely and he tries to update the website whenever there is a need according to the work being done.

New Business

Board of Health

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public.

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It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:45 PM MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/aek